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Round Tops—which was, perhaps, the decisive factor.

The marine maneuvers have drawn attention to revolutionizing changes in tactics and battle equipment. But they show little that is revolutionary in the "science of war," which remains much as it always has been, because it is based on a very few simple and elementary principles.

European Disarmament

Representatives of Great Britain have laid before the disarmament commission of the League of Nations two proposals for general land disarmament. One, Lord Esher's, calls for a ratio allotment, similar to the capital ship allotment of the Washington naval limitation treaty, with the Austrian army as a basic unit. The other, Lord Robert Cecil's, suggests general land, naval and aerial disarmament, with a compact among the League powers to protect one another from external aggression.

Limitation of naval armament was accomplished at Washington largely because it vitally concerned only three states, all of which were friendly and ready to end a very costly competition in naval construction. The five nations concerned virtually monopolized naval power. Any compact they made was certain to be complete and final. The League is dealing with a different problem. It is wrestling primarily with a European problem. In that problem two non-member nations, Russia and Germany, are important factors. Russia, an outlaw, maintains the world's largest army. Germany, struggling to escape her obligations under the Versailles Treaty, has concluded an alliance with Russia. The peace of Europe is bound up with the maintenance of the Versailles settlements, which are the guarantors of the new political order in that continent.

How, then, can the European members of the League afford to disarm incautiously on land? As among themselves there is little need of armed protection. They already have in the League covenant an agreement not to attack one another and to go to the aid of any one of their own number attacked by an outsider. But what is such a compact worth? What would the duplicate compact urged by Lord Robert Cecil be worth? Poland was invaded by Russia in 1920 and Warsaw was nearly captured. Did the League step in? It did not. The Poles had to save themselves, with the aid of a single League member—France.

Russia, allied with Germany, is still a threat to Europe. For the Soviet government has never given up its idea of converting western Europe to Bolshevism by military force. Russia and Germany together are a menace to the Versailles Treaty and to the Europe which emerged from the war.

France has the best army in Europe. It is the sole weapon left for the enforcement of the treaty and the preservation of the status quo. It is the best hope of peace and order. Any move just now to reduce it to correspond in strength with Austria's army, or Bulgaria's, or Holland's, or even Great Britain's, would be a blow at the peace settlements and European security. The time hasn't come yet when the League nations can treat Germany and Russia like innocent, frisking lambs.

Ireland's Nuisance

One look at the countenance of De Valera suffices to explain the man. His narrow face, his over-prominent nose, his eyes close together, a thrusting jaw betokening wilfulness, his humorless expression—his is the typical face of a fanatic. When they are right such as he are valuable. But, alas! they are seldom right. They espouse wrong and then, in ecstasy of self-martyrdom, are immovable. The ancestors of De Valera were not Irish, with hot heads but warm hearts, but cold and cruel theologians. His blood is Spanish, like his name. He is of the breed of Torquemada, whose doing of evil became to him a religious duty.

It is vastly creditable to the Irish people that they refused De Valera's leadership and disregarded his artful appeals to their patriotism. Ireland appears as entirely competent to look after her own affairs, with the resolution to suppress, even to the shedding of blood, disturbers of her peace. A new Ireland has arisen, and it is well to forget the old Ireland—the Ireland of rack rents and absentee landlords, of peat smoke and pigsty parlors, of love of drink and of the shillalah. When the Wyndom land act, which opened her door of opportunity to Irish peasants, was passed the foundations of a new sort of Irish life were laid. Economic influences rather than political agitation have wrought the transformation.

That even for a few days the Irish capital has seen the horrors of civil war is regrettable, but there is a corresponding gain. The Irish are enough for the substances of democratic government to be willing to shoot in their defense. The record will be calming to other De Valeras. An easy-going majority has need to establish once in a while that its commands are not lightly to be gained and are more than advice. The shots that fell about the fugitive

head of De Valera in his retreat are notice to hedgemen generally to be quiet.

De Valera forgot that the claims of a whole often outweigh the claims of a part. He pressed independence doctrines until they cracked. It isn't true and never has been true that the right of self-determination is absolute and unconditional. Scotchmen agree that it is well the clans were defeated at Culloden and men of our South that the decision registered at Appomattox was good for all. Whether there is to be separation or union depends on the circumstances of the particular case, and strict logic is baffled. Ireland will be benefited by the measure of mingled dependence and independence that is provided for in her new constitution. Human life is too complex to be reducible to a syllogism and few are the principles which are not offset by other principles.

Germany's Assassinations

It has long been a boast of Germany that political assassination was alien to the German character. The claim has not been without foundation. Old Kaiser Wilhelm was attacked, but on the whole Germany has been notably free of terrorism. But since the war Erzberger, Eisner and Rathenau have been assassinated, Scheidemann and Ebert have been attacked, and now Maximilian Harden is near to death. Either Germany's prior immunity was coincidental, or else Germany has changed.

In all these crimes the assailants were not anarchists or communists, but monarchists. A finger cannot be pointed this time at the revolutionary organizations. The criminals are reactionists and counter-revolutionaries. If not aristocrats themselves they are in sympathy with the aristocrats—former officers who find life very hard now that they are asked to work.

The German republic has worn so artificial an aspect that few have believed in its reality. But if in Germany the junkers think it is so important and so much in the way of their plans as to make them desire to murder its chief agents, then it will be in the way of becoming highly esteemed. The world would have a German government whose back is firmly turned on the past and honestly in opposition to the old Germany. Such a new Germany the world would gladly trust.

Limitation of Fireworks

The city boys had more cause than ever yesterday to be jealous of the country boys. They were denied the adventure of firecrackers, and even had a hard time to buy the innocuous and distinctly tame "sparkers." While the country boys were restrained only by not too watchful parents, those in the city were watched by vigilant authorities. So strict was the supervision over the sale of firecrackers that even the few who sought to sell them illegally succeeded in doing only a small business. The fear of the law was upon them, and this fear was great because it was obvious that the city authorities were determined that the ordinance should be enforced.

It seems that the advocates of the "safe and sane" Fourth are finally triumphing. That a spot ordinarily so reckless as Manhattan should be so free from casualties shows great progress in the safety campaign. From the country districts, of course, come the usual stories of lost fingers and burned faces and hands. But even these are less in number than they were in the old days. Limitation of sales of firecrackers in the country will have to be enforced as strictly as it has been in the city before the ideals of a totally safe Fourth can be realized.

One of the sacred rights of boydom is thus doomed. The passion for noise is hard to eradicate, but its satisfaction by the use of firecrackers is rather a tradition than a necessity. Boys of the old school will keenly regret the limitation of firecrackers and fireworks and will bemoan how the times have changed. But they will also understand that the "safe and sane" campaign, while devoid of a proper regard for boyish traditions, is designed to protect and not to hamper, and that the restrictions which it places are only sensible.

Murphy's Twenty Years

Charles F. Murphy has been the chief of Tammany Hall for twenty years chiefly because he has been an umpire rather than a leader.

Murphy has not Croker's aggressive masterfulness and little of the intellectual force of Tweed. His chief asset is caution, which he exercises constantly and with considerable judgment.

The organization has not grown any better under the Murphy regime than it was in the days of his predecessors. It still has one purpose, which is to get offices and to use them as offices have been used by Tammany Hall since a year or two after its founding.

But with a great influx of foreign-born membership and the consequent danger of splits into factions it is no longer possible for one man to domineer over the whole gang.

To-day there are men in Tammany Hall of more brains and

more aggressiveness than Murphy. But the cautious boss plays one against the other, and he is suffered to remain in office because each powerful district leader distrusts the others and will not consent to a rival's elevation to the head of the machine.

Almost continually during his administration Murphy has had a cabinet and a prime minister and has been largely governed by their decisions. Bourke Cockran, Daniel F. Cohalan and "Al" Smith have all served in their turn as his chief adviser. He was able, with the support of the enemies of Cockran and Cohalan, to drop both of them as pilots. He has never been able to drop Smith, owing to the latter's great popularity in the organization.

The chances are that Murphy will remain at the head of Tammany Hall as long as he cares to. Leaders complain that he is selfish and narrow, but they know of no other man of whom they would not be jealous were he elevated to Murphy's place.

Meanwhile the organization is just as sordid, just as grasping and just as dangerous to the public welfare as it ever has been. No respectabilities it has put on the bench, no camouflaging of its methods, can ever conceal that from observing citizens.

District Attorney Banton deferred his declaration that New York was the safest city in the world till Commissioner Enright went on his vacation.

At 146 Uncle Sam seemed to feel just as well as he did when he was a mere boy of 100.

More Truth Than Poetry

By James J. Montague

Unconvinced

We learn that Pancho Villa, Who used to rob and shoot And swiftly go Through Mexico. In quest of crime and loot, Is now a man of virtue, Who does no mortal harm, But milks his cows And drives his plows Upon a quiet farm.

The hand that plied the pistol, Exacting wrongful spoil, Now reaps and sows And mows and hoos The rich Durango soil. The brain that once concocted All sorts of evil schemes Is wholly bent On calm content And pleasant pious dreams.

It's nice to know that bandits Are subject to reform, Quite satisfied To put aside Their lives of stress and storm, To bid the base emotions That stirred within them cease, And with their sheep Lie down to sleep In inoffensive peace.

Yet should I meet with Pancho, Dressed in altered ways, And though I saw Respect for law In his soft, friendly gaze, Although he smiled upon me And sought to speak me fair, I'd wheel around And with one bound I'd start away from there.

Beyond Peradventure

We can't find out who is winning the coal strike, but every time we look at our coal bin we know who is losing it.

It Might Help

They are going to establish a college at Hollywood. Let us hope that they send the scenario writers to it.

Still in Vogue

Russia frowns on all privileges except the privilege she extends to other nations to lend her money. (Copyright by James J. Montague.)

For a Perkins Memorial

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The Palisades Interstate Park is indeed "a monument more enduring than brass" to the memory of its founder, George Walbridge Perkins.

It seems fitting to suggest a testimonial in the form of a publicly erected and endowed convocation hall to be known as the Perkins Memorial. Built at the foot of Bear Mountain, overlooking the Hudson for miles, such an edifice, dedicated to gatherings arranged for the educational and intellectual benefit of the park's thousands of pleasure seekers, would complete the recreational facilities already so substantially inaugurated.

At present the park lacks an assembly hall, a forum or meeting place in keeping with its character where public gatherings may be held, conventions entertained, bodies of distinguished visitors received, concerts, lectures and musical festivals provided and pageants staged.

The Perkins Memorial Hall would meet the requirements of all occasions. It should be built by popular subscription as a testimonial of appreciation by the public to the founder of the park and the preserver of the Palisades, and it should not fail to recognize fittingly the beneficence of the loyal friends of Mr. Perkins who contributed half of the fund expended up to 1920.

Over a million and a half of people will visit the park this year. Surely it ought to be easy to organize the Interstate Park Assembly for the purpose of making of it the medium for financing the erection of Perkins Memorial Hall as a voluntary association to express the gratitude of the people whose playground the park is.

I should like to hear from those of your readers who feel as I do on this subject.

REESE P. RISLEY. Lotus Club, N. Y., June 27, 1922.

The Tower

MOAN

Rain!

It is showering again.

Oh, listen to my misery and hearken to my sorrow!

It rained most all of yesterday; it's gonna rain to-morrow.

It's rained upon the races, on the ball games and the fights.

It showers in the mornings and it thunders in the nights.

It drizzles like a sprinkling pot or soaks you like a hose;

It waterlogs your overshoes and leaks inside your clothes;

It turns the streets to rivers and it liquefies the dust.

If they have a dam in Paradise the damn thing must have burst.

It patters in the sunlight and it murmurs in the dark;

In about another seven days I'm gonna buy an ark.

Morbidly I wish,

While the gutters cluck and swish, That the Lord had made a frog of me or even just a fish.

In a voice that's filled with pain I rehearse my prayers in vain;

The only answer that I get for all my work is

Rain.

Pour!

Gosh, it makes me awful sore!

It's rained so long I've swot so long, without a diminution,

That I'm not a human being; I'm a saturate solution.

It really isn't any use to tussle and to try

With a towel after bathing. There's no hope of getting dry.

You can't appear a gentleman when all the public spies

New wrinkles in your clothing every time you sit and rise.

You abhor your own appearance; there's no pride and pleasure in it.

When the cleanest, stiffest collar doesn't stay that way a minute.

When my sudden spirit swims away—most earnestly I ask it—

With a dipper and a siphon place my body in its casket.

Wrathfully I cry

For a chance to meet the guy Who first began the movement for to make this country dry.

All the swears there are I've sworn, But they've all been said before, And in spite of prayer and blasphemy it goes right on to

Pour.

Wet!

All I do is sit and sweat.

When the rain is irrigating on the surface of my hide

The perspiration issues from the other, under side.

It's hard to be real patient when your epidemics feels

Like the slippy, squidy, slimy stuff that's wrapped around the eels.